



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**USDA FUNDING SPURS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SNYDER**

**Lincoln, Neb., September 16—** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development recently approved a rural economic development loan of \$250,000 to Great Plains Communication, Inc. The funds will assist in the \$1.3 million expansion of the DANKO manufacturing plant in Snyder, Nebraska that will create 20 new full time positions to an existing work force of 26.

DANKO, a 28-year manufacturer and marketer of specialized fire emergency and protection vehicles, covers an exclusive five-state territory encompassing Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Minnesota. DANKO proposes to use the funds to construct a new 33,000 square foot building that will allow the business to dramatically increase its production volume capabilities while, at the same time, reduce per unit production time and per unit production costs.

The USDA Rural Development Rural Economic Development Loan (REDL) program provides zero-interest loans to telephone utilities such as Great Plains Communication, Inc. as well as to electric utilities. The loan funds are used to promote sustainable rural economic development and job creation projects. These utilities are required to re-lend, at zero-percent interest, the loan proceeds to an eligible third-party recipient such as DANKO for the purpose of financing job creation projects and sustainable economic development within rural areas.

Funding for the \$1.3 million facility is comprised of \$250,000 USDA REDL funds, \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$100,000 from Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (via the USDA Rural Development Intermediary Relending Program), \$250,000 via First State Bank of Snyder and \$300,000 from DANKO.

For additional information contact Roger A. Meeks, 6030 South 58<sup>th</sup> Street Suite B Lincoln, NE 68516 (402) 423-9683 ext.4. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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